

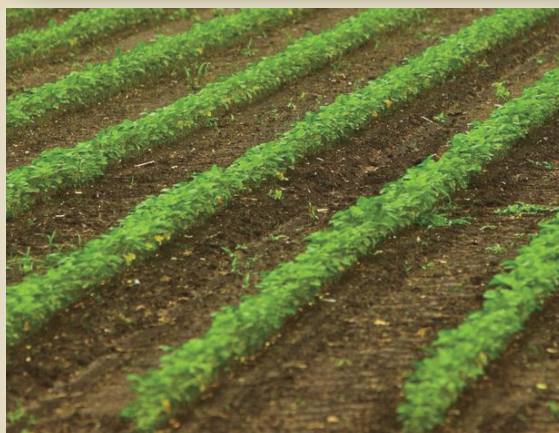


Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce



*Cindy Hyde-Smith,
Commissioner*

2014 Annual Report



**Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce
121 North Jefferson Street
Jackson, MS 39201
Phone (601) 359-1100
Fax (601) 354-6290
www.mdac.ms.gov**

Letter from Your Commissioner



Cindy Hyde-Smith, Commissioner

Agriculture plays an important role in the lives of each Mississippian. Mississippi boasts 37,300 farms with nearly 11 million acres of farmland. During 2014, the farm-gate value of agricultural and forestry production was \$7.9 billion making agriculture the state's largest industry. The value added to the economy from agricultural and forestry production was \$17.2 billion. Approximately 29 percent of the state's workforce is employed in jobs either directly or indirectly related to agriculture.

The responsibilities of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) are multifaceted. The mission of MDAC is to promote Mississippi's agricultural industry while regulating laws governing the various agricultural sectors and providing services to consumers and agribusinesses. This Fiscal Year 2014 An-

nual Report details the many accomplishments of the Department as our dedicated staff strives to serve the consumers of Mississippi in an efficient and effective manner while utilizing taxpayer funds wisely. The collaborations and joint efforts with other State and Federal agencies along with the Mississippi Legislature are also integral to the Department's success.

The Bureau of Regulatory Services is responsible for the many regulatory functions of the Department which extend from the from on-farm production to processing and retail markets. Regulatory Service Inspectors conduct sanitation inspections of grocery stores and meat plants to ensure the adherence of food safety regulations. They are also responsible for the certification of gas pumps and verification of weights and measures.

The Bureau of Plant Industry protects the agricultural and horticultural interests of the state from harmful insects, diseases, and weeds. The Bureau is also responsible for registering pesticides, feeds, seeds, fertilizers, and soil amendments sold in the state, as well as, permitting all pest control operators throughout the state.

The Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau enforces laws to prevent agricultural related thefts. The Bureau investigates any theft that involves agribusiness, including timber theft, equipment theft, chemical theft, and livestock theft, and the Bureau also handles the registration of all livestock brands in the state.

The Market Development Division is responsible for promoting Mississippi's agricultural products and agriculturally-related businesses statewide and worldwide through programs

such as the Certified Farmers Market Program, Agritourism Registration Program, Farm-to-School, Make Mine Mississippi, and the *Mississippi Market Bulletin*. The Mississippi Farmers Market provides farmers, specialty food processors, and artisans with a convenient, affordable location to sell their locally grown and produced items directly to the consumer.

The Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, the educational arm of the Department, creates an environment that communicates the value of the past and present Mississippi agricultural lifestyles, relationships, and practices and their relevance. The Ag Museum tells the story of Mississippi's agricultural history through indoor and outdoor exhibits and events.

In addition to overseeing the responsibilities of the Department, duties of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce include leadership through service on the following state boards including Mississippi Board of Animal Health, Mississippi Central Farmers Market Board, Mississippi Fair Commission, Mississippi Land, Water, and Timber Resources Board, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Permit Board, Mississippi Egg Marketing Board, State Seed Board, and State Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

I encourage you to learn more about the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce through our website www.mdac.ms.gov.

Sincerely,
Cindy Hyde-Smith
Commissioner

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Mississippi Agriculture Facts

- **\$7.9 billion value of production**
- **37,300 farms**
- **10.9 million acres of land farmed**
- **19.7 million acres of forest land**
- **640,000 acres of ponds and lakes**
- **43,800 water acres of catfish production**
- **Mississippi ranks #1 nationally in catfish production**
- **Average farm size is 264 acres**
- **Average age of Mississippi farmer 60.4**
- **29% of the state's workforce employed in jobs related directly or indirectly to agriculture**
- **Mississippi ranks in the Top 20 nationally in the production of 15 agricultural commodities**

Source: Mississippi State University & USDA 2012 Agriculture Census

2014 Mississippi Value of Production

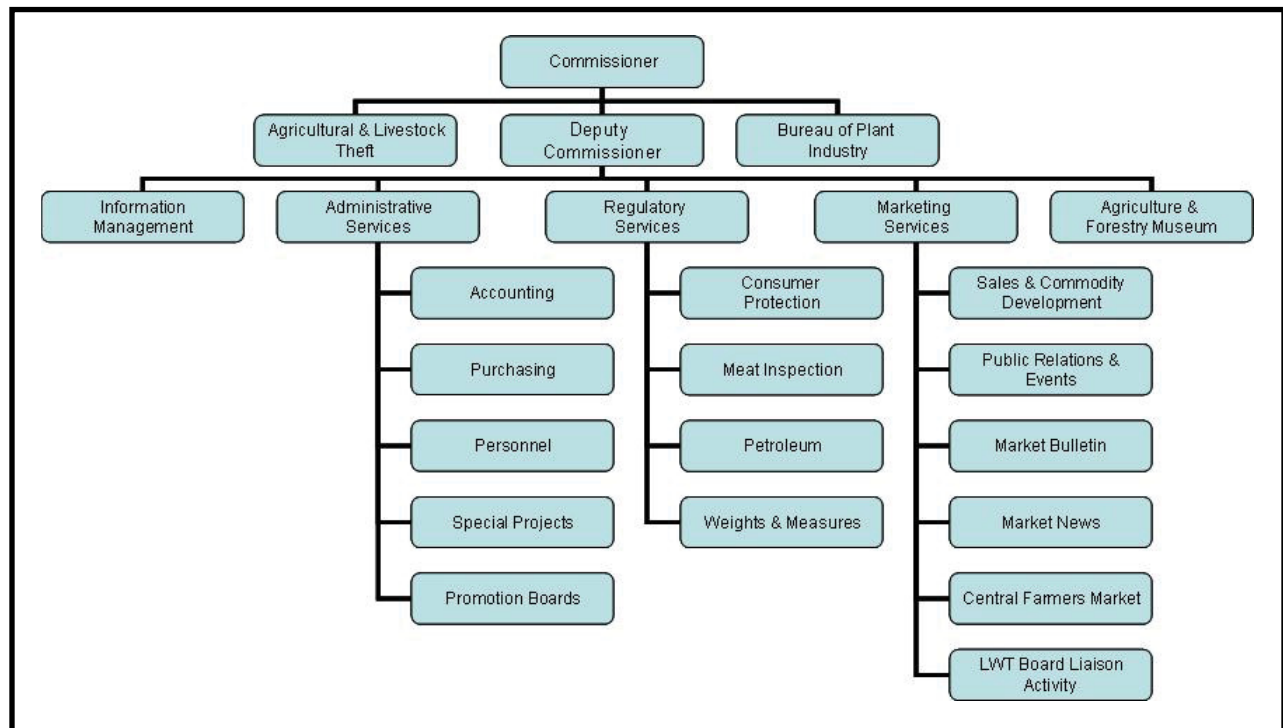


| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Broilers/Eggs/Chickens | \$3.1 billion |
| Forestry | \$1.3 billion |
| Soybeans | \$1.2 billion |
| Cotton | \$404 million |
| Cattle | \$397 million |
| Corn | \$350 million |
| Catfish | \$197 million |
| Rice | \$174 million |
| Hogs | \$153 million |
| Horticulture | \$114 million |
| Hay | \$105 million |
| Sweet Potatoes | \$96 million |
| Wheat | \$67 million |
| Milk | \$45 million |
| Grain Sorghum | \$39 million |
| Peanuts | \$21 million |
| Other Payments | \$174 million |
| Grand Total | \$7.9 billion |

Source: Mississippi State University

Administration

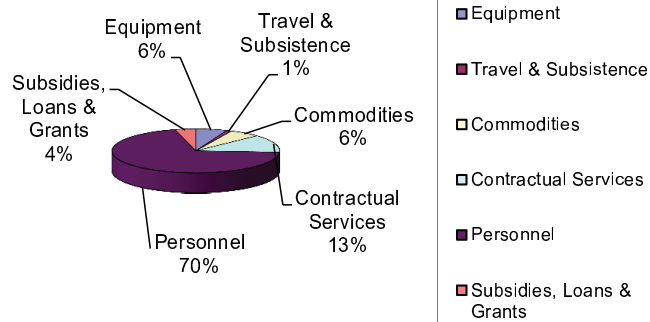
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Organization Chart



Administration

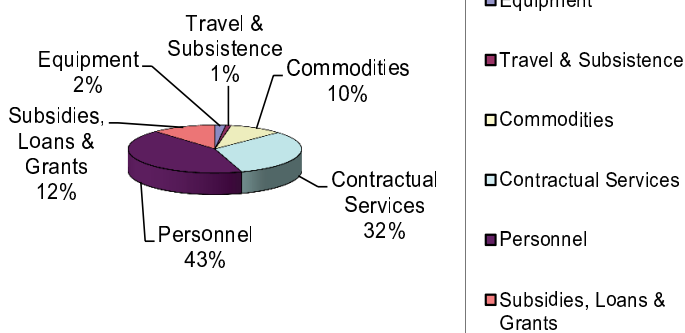
Cindy Hyde-Smith - Commissioner
Andy Prosser - Deputy Commissioner
John Campbell - BPI Director

Revenues and Expenditures



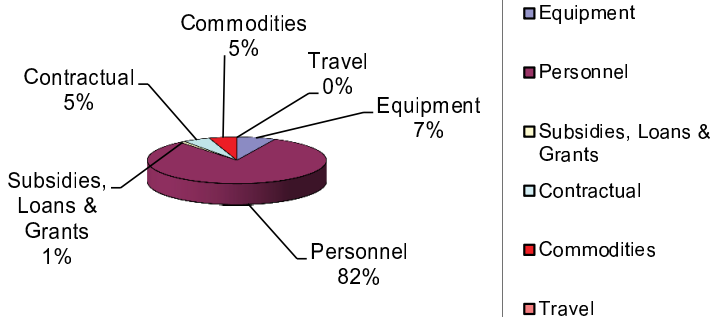
MDAC Support Budget General and Special Funds FY 2014

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Revenues | \$14,949,359 |
| Total Expenditures | \$13,657,309 |



Special Funds Only

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Revenues | \$5,463,060 |
| Total Expenditures | \$4,171,010 |



General Fund Only

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Revenues | \$9,486,299 |
| Total Expenditures | \$9,486,299 |

Regulatory Services



The Bureau of Regulatory Services is a regulatory bureau within the Department that is divided into area-specific divisions, which regulates businesses in the state. The Legislature established a regulatory office within the Department pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. 69-1-203. The goal of the Bureau of Regulatory Services is to ensure that businesses maintain their activities within a certain framework of laws and regulations, with the purpose of protecting the public health and welfare and establishing equity in the marketplace.

The Bureau of Regulatory Services administers state laws and promulgates regulations to support those laws in the areas of Meat Inspection, Retail Food Sanitation, Labeling laws, Grain, Aquaculture, Peanuts, Petroleum, and Weights and Measures. The Bureau partners with federal and other state agencies.

Julie McLemore, Director

E-mail: Julie@mdac.ms.gov

Regulatory Services - Consumer Protection Division

The main mission of the Consumer Protection Division is to ensure food quality and safety at the retail level and to ensure fairness and equity in the marketplace through the administration and enforcement of specific laws and regulations designed primarily to protect the interests of the general public.

The Consumer Protection Division is one of the most diversified divisions in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. In addition to certain retail food safety and sanitation responsibilities, the Division also focuses on weights and measures inspections and food labeling requirements.

The health of Mississippi consumers is benefited by the inspections that Consumer Protection inspectors perform every day. Sanitary meat markets, food at appropriate temperatures, soap in restrooms, and the absence of insects and rodents are just a few of the things inspectors routinely check.

The Division also protects consumers behind the scenes. If you've ever been in a grocery store and wondered how check out scales are accurate or how customers get what they pay for, the Consumer Protection Division is responsible for ensuring weights and measures standards in retail food establishments.

Weights and measures include the following:

- Ensuring the accuracy of scales, including meat scales, deli scales, produce scales, and checkout scales.
- Sample testing of UPC price verification which ensures that prices on the shelves match prices at the checkout registers.
- Conducting inspections of package net weights to ensure not only that consumers are paying for only the net weight of foods, but also that prices properly reflect the correct weight.

The Consumer Protection Division benefits the financial welfare of consumers by striving to ensure that consumers get what they pay for and

pay for no more than the advertised prices of goods.

Proper food labeling is also a responsibility of the Division. The Division conducts meat compliance inspections in retail food establishments under a USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service Cooperative Agreement. These inspections make sure that illegally processed meats are not in the channels of commerce.

In addition, the Division also conducts Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) inspections under a USDA Cooperative Agreement. The benefit of these inspections is that consumers are aware of where certain foods come from such as muscle cuts of meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, and unprocessed nuts must have a country-of-origin declaration at the final point of sale. The enforcement of COOL laws increases consumer knowledge and allows consumers to have a greater range of choices.

Consumer Protection, continued on next page

Consumer Protection, continued from page 7



Food labeling extends to honey and syrup also. To ensure that consumers are in fact buying pure honey and pure syrup when labels state such claims, the Division works in concert with the Mississippi State Department of Health to regulate the sale of pure honey and pure syrup.

The Division also has a natural disaster partnership with the FDA to work with that agency and other state agencies in the event of a natural disaster, such as a hurricane or a tornado outbreak. In order to help respond to emergencies, the

Division began plotting GPS coordinates of all stores within its jurisdiction. So far, 1,332 stores' latitudes and longitudes have been stored into a computer database.

The Division will strive to continue a cooperative working relationship with other state and federal agencies, as well as other Bureaus and Divisions of the Department, to better serve and protect the general public.

Consumer Protection Statistics

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| • Items checked for net weight (7.9% placed off sale) | 42,303 |
| • Dozens of shell eggs inspected | 85,754 |
| • Scales tested (100 pounds or less) (1.9% rejected) | 6,060 |
| • Labeling inspections | 4,921 |
| • Meat compliance inspections | 4,497 |
| • Retail food sanitation inspections (2.01% failed) | 5,318 |
| • Inspections for commercial garbage disposal compliance | 5,537 |
| • Universal Product Code price verification inspections (9.62% failed) | 457 |
| • Catfish Marketing Law inspections (14.2% failed) | 317 |
| • USDA COOL audits (\$23,200 in revenues for the Department) | 38 |

- Total number of stores at the end of FY14 2,800
- Number of inspectors in Division 12



Adam Choate, Director
E-mail: Adam@mdac.ms.gov

Peanuts and Federal/State Inspection Service

The Federal/State Inspection Division provides fruit and vegetable inspections, as well as third party food safety audits known as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) audits. All inspections and food safety audits are provided statewide to farms, packers, and wholesalers.

The GAP/GHP audits are voluntary independent audits of produce suppliers throughout the production and supply chain. GAP/GHP audits focus on best agricultural practices to verify that fruits and vegetables are produced, packed, handled, and stored in the safest manner possible to minimize risks of microbial food safety hazards. The audits verify adherence to the recommendations made in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and industry recognized food safety practices. During FY 2014, 50 GAP/GHP audits were performed.

MDAC graded 36,000 tons of peanuts in 2014. Farmer stock peanut inspections have increased dramatically from their beginning in 2006. In



2006, there was only one peanut buying point that graded 2,500 tons and employed two contract employees. As of FY 2014, there are four peanut buying points in the state, employing multiple seasonal contract workers.

Kevin Riggan, Director
E-mail: Kevin@mdac.ms.gov

Regulatory Services - Petroleum Division



The Petroleum Products Inspection Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce ensures the quality of fuel purchased within the state. All retail motor fuel products which include gasoline, ethanol blended fuel, diesel fuel, biodiesel blended fuel, and kerosene are analyzed by the Mississippi State Chemical Lab to ensure product compliance within American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) specifications, including octane, flash point, alcohol content, presence of water, and biodiesel content.

The Petroleum Division responded to over 250 consumer complaints, resulting in nearly one-quarter being out of compliance. Complaints are typically addressed within a 24-hour period. In addition, the Division conducted annual device meter and fuel quality inspections. Water and sign inspections are also performed on site during each inspection to insure compliance. Total inspections of 2,876 retail establishments involving 70,794 individual devices were conducted for fiscal year 2014. A total of 3,675 violations were issued for non-compliant devices.

Hi-volume meters typical of bulk racks are approved using the Petroleum Division's 150-gallon Calibration Trailer, and truck stop meters are approved using the division's 60-gallon Calibration Trailers. With the addition of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) now available through a metering device at most major truck fueling sites, test measures specific for DEF have been purchased and will be used as part of the calibration trailer unit.

The Petroleum Division has also observed and certified meters offering Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for sale to the public within the state.

A total of three fueling sites are now in use in Mississippi.

Administrative complaints were issued for non-compliant product and civil penalties assessed and collected in the amount of \$22,345.00 which is deposited into the general fund.

Petroleum Division Responsibilities

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| • Stations registered | 2,876 |
| • Petroleum pumps tested | 70,794 |
| • Petroleum products samples | 2,243 |
| • Violations issued | 3,675 |
| • Stop sales for fuel violations | 105 |
| • Sales for calibration violations | 133 |
| • Stop sales for sign violations | 147 |
| • Stop sales for water violations | 179 |
| • Total nozzles | 52,098 |

Upgrades to the WinWam Computer software designed specifically for Weights & Measures officials now allows field personnel to work more independently and to complete all inspection information for immediate synchronization to the main office computer, giving complete access to all inspection data by office personnel within hours.

Wi-Fi Hotspots are in place and provide better and more effective coverage and through the use of more integrated technology, provides inspectors the ability to email pictures of problem situations instantaneously as well as send and receive emails and submit inspection reports relevant to complaints and other information from the field. Laptop mounts in all vehicles have proven a safe means to transport and to use laptops for data entry while on site.



State of the art slide-in calibration units are provided for all field personnel allowing them a more efficient manner in which to verify calibration of retail motor fuel dispensing devices through random retail device inspections. Custom flatbeds have replaced the typical truck bed, providing inspectors an even safer method of inspection.



Jennifer Thompson, Director
E-mail: Jennifer@mdac.ms.gov

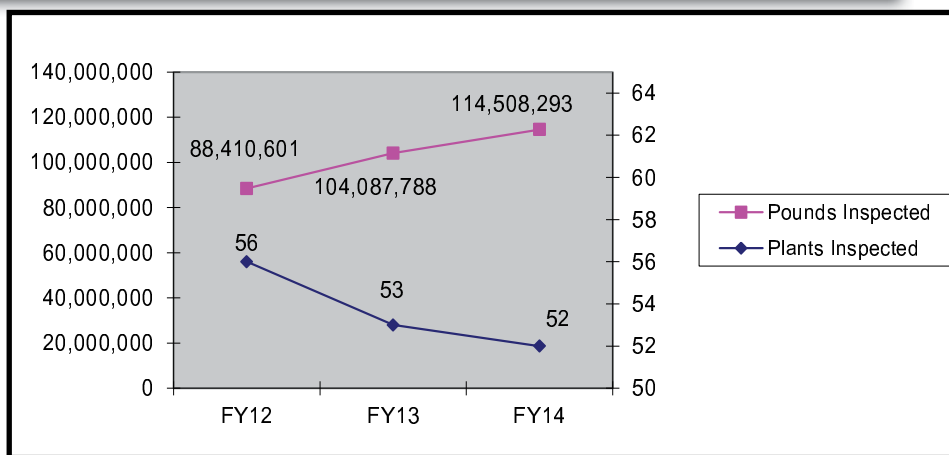
Regulatory Services - Meat Inspection Division

The Meat Inspection Division provides food safety assurance to meat and poultry food consumers. This is done by providing inspection services to establishments that prepare meat and poultry food products for entry into intrastate commerce and to some establishments that engage in interstate commerce. This assurance is becoming more critical as more food products are intended to be consumed with little or no further preparation at home.

The Division began with the Meat, Meat-Food, and Poultry Regulation and Inspection Law of 1960. The law was amended with the Mississippi Meat Inspection Law of 1968, at which time it entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the cooperative agreement is to establish a meat and poultry inspection system that is equal to the federal inspection system. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce also has cooperative agreements for the Talmadge-Aiken Program and the Compliance and Investigation Division program.

The Meat Inspection Division has moved from organoleptic inspection to newly-evolving scientific methods of assessing the effectiveness of food safety systems. This Division is constantly implementing new scientific advancements in food safety. Each establishment that produces meat products now have interventions in place to eliminate or control the pathogens that are most likely to cause food borne illness.

The Meat Inspection Division has transitioned to a new computerized inspection system, Public Health Information System (PHIS). The system integrates data from all program areas allowing the inspector to make the most informed decisions about food safety.



The pounds of meat inspected by MDAC has increased over the past three years.

Meat Inspection Division Statistics

- Pounds of red meat inspected 43,033,934
- Pounds of poultry inspected 71,546,359
- Number of animals inspected 155,124
- Number of rabbits inspected 38,292
- Number of state meat plant licenses issued 32
- Number T/A plant (no state license required) 20

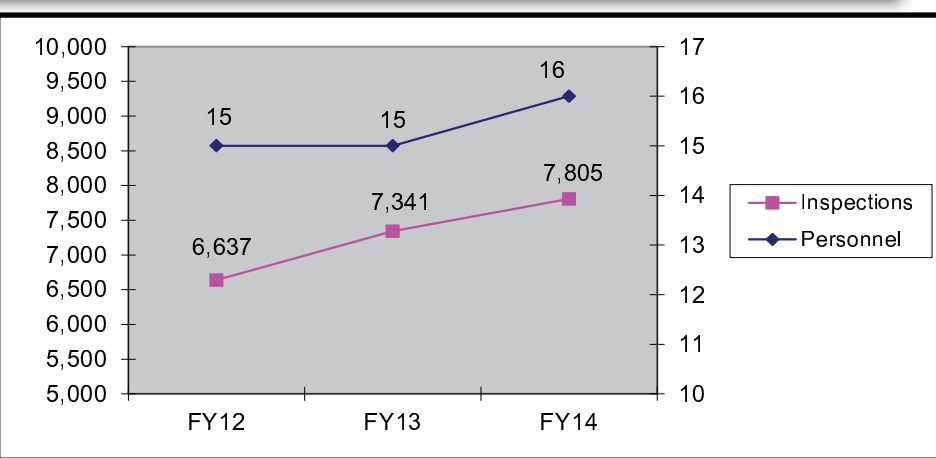


Richard Benton, Director

E-mail: RichardB@mdac.ms.gov

Regulatory Services - Weights and Measures Division

The Weights and Measures Division serves a valuable consumer and commercial protection function for the people of the State of Mississippi. The Division regulates the use of weighing and measuring devices used commercially within the state to ensure compliance with the Weights and Measures Law of 1964. The team of dedicated weights and measures inspectors and officials ensure equity in the marketplace by making routine inspections on those devices. The inspectors inspect and test all types of commercial weighing devices including railroad scales, vehicle scales, livestock scales, and those used to weigh precious metals and stones like gold, silver, and diamonds. The Division promotes marketplace equity through check weighing packages to verify their labeled weight and UPC-price verification of all businesses that use UPC scanning systems. The Division also



Inspections and personnel for FY 2012 through FY 2014.

Weights & Measures, continued on next page

Weights and Measures, continued from page 10



Unloading the test cart and weights at a livestock scale.

investigates complaints involving weighing and measuring devices and their use. In addition, the Department licenses scale repairmen and companies that sell, install, and repair weighing or measuring devices within the State of Mississippi.

Moisture Meter Testing Laboratory

The Mississippi Moisture Meter Laboratory is also a part of the Weights and Measures Division and is located on the campus of the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, Mississippi. The lab provides testing and inspection of devices used to measure the moisture content of agricultural products offered for sale, processed, or stored, using standard methods set by the USDA. The Moisture Meter Lab also

compiles grain standards used in the inspection of grain moisture meters tested in the State of Mississippi.

Weights and Measures Division Overview

- Tested 1,374 heavy scales and rejected 269
- Tested 4,366 intermediate scales and rejected 378
- Tested 175 livestock scales and rejected 19
- Tested 64 rail scales and rejected 7
- Calibrated 75 dairy farm milk tanks
- Bonded 98 Weighmaster inspections and rejected 22
- Conducted 273 pulpwood/timber inspections and rejected 72
- Checked 489 packages and rejected 40
- Handled 154 UPC inspections and rejected 18
- Tested 529 gram scales and rejected 116
- Tested 208 grain moisture meters and rejected 8
- Oven tested 79 soybean, 52 corn, 56 wheat, and 65 rice samples

Connie Braswell, Director

E-mail: Connie@mdac.ms.gov



Regulatory Services - State Metrology Lab

The Regulatory Division maintains the State Metrology Laboratory located on the campus of Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi. The lab is accredited by the National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST) which certifies weighing and measuring test equipment to validate the accuracy of these standards. The certification allows the lab to provide certification and calibration services for government, commercial, and private entities. Once certified, the equipment then can be used for testing and calibrating of mass and volume standards. This certification allows the Department to test all measuring devices for accuracy used in commerce which is traceable to NIST.



**State Metrology Laboratory
Lorman, MS.**

The Metrology Laboratory Overview

- Total calibrations were 5,731.
- Collected \$48,422.63 in calibrations fees.

Mel Isagii, Director

E-mail: Mel@mdac.ms.gov

Bureau of Plant Industry



Bureau of Plant Industry is located in Starkville, Mississippi.

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) is a regulatory and service division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. BPI serves as the Plant Protection and Quarantine Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. It carries out regulatory programs pertaining to agricultural aviation, pesticides, plant pests, honey bees, seed, animal feed, fertilizer, lime, and soil/plant amendments. Additionally, it maintains cooperative agreements with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in administration and enforcement of state and federal laws.

Purpose

The State Plant Board was established under the Mississippi Plant Act of 1918, Sections 69-25-1 through 69-25-47, Mississippi Code 1972, to protect the agricultural and horticultural interests of the state from the introduction and spread of destructive plant pests. In 1971, the Mississippi Legislature abolished the board and established the Division of Plant Industry within the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce to assume the board's duties and responsibilities. In 1991, the name of the Division of Plant Industry was changed to the Bureau of Plant Industry. In 1996, the state agriculture department's Seed Division and Feed, Fertilizer, Lime, and Soil/Plant Amendments Division were placed under the administration of the Bureau.

Legislative Authority

The Bureau is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the following state statutes:

- Mississippi Plant Act of 1918, Sections 69-25-1 through 69-25-47
- Mississippi Bee Disease Act of 1920, Sections 69-25-101 through 69-25-109
- Regulation of Professional Services Law of 1938, Sections 69-19-1 through 69-19-15

- Agricultural Aviation Licensing Law of 2009, Sections 69-21-101 through 69-21-128
- Mississippi Pure Seed Law of 1968, Sections 69-3-1 through 69-3-29
- Mississippi Commercial Feed Law of 1972, Sections 75-45-151 through 75-45-195
- Mississippi Fertilizer Law of 1972, Sections 75-47-1 through 75-47-39
- Mississippi Pesticide Law of 1975, Sections 69-23-1 through 69-23-29
- Mississippi Pesticide Application Act of 1975, Sections 69-23-101 through 69-23-135
- Mississippi Soil and Plant Amendment Law of 1978, Sections 69-24-1 through 69-24-27
- Mississippi Boll Weevil Management Act of 1993, Sections 69-37-1 through 69-37-41
- Mississippi Agricultural Liming Materials Act of 1993, Sections 69-39-1 through 69-39-19

The Bureau is also designated by the federal government as the state agency responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Plant Pest Program

- Conducted 631 nursery inspections and 1145 nursery dealer inspections.
- Conducted 16 inspections for Brown Garden Snail on plant materials shipped from California.
- Certified and inspected 22,261 colonies of honey bees.
- Permitted 46,098 bee colonies into Mississippi.
- Issued 535 phytosanitary certificates on plant material and seed export.
- Found no Sweet Potato Weevils after setting 2,549 traps on 18,400 acres of sweet potatoes.

- Conducted Cogongrass demonstration program for 203 private land owners. 994 acres were treated in the program.
- Collected assessment fees on 417,108 acres of cotton by farmers participating in state wide eradication of the Boll Weevil.
- Issued 59 landscape horticulturist licenses.
- Issued 29 tree surgery licenses.
- Conducted 1,740 surveys statewide at nurseries and nursery dealers for Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Chrysanthemum White Rust, Viburnum Leaf Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, Giant African Snail, Cactus Moth, and Asian Longhorned Beetle. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 369 surveys in 50 counties at soybean production fields for Maritime Garden Snail, Soybean Pod Borer, Cucurbit Beetle, Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Yellow Witchweed, and Benghal Dayflower. Benghal Dayflower was found at one site in Covington County.
- Conducted 289 surveys in 8 counties at cotton production fields for Giant African Snail, Cotton Seed Bug, Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Egyptian Broomrape, and Benghal Dayflower. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 22 visual surveys in 4 counties at rice production fields for Bacterial Leaf Streak of Rice. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 70 surveys in 6 counties at rice production fields for Giant African Snail, Apple Snails, Asiatic Rice Borer, South American Rice Miner, Bakanae, Senegal Tea Plant, YeGu, and Panicle Rice Mite. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 1,740 visual surveys statewide in nurseries, nursery dealers, and the environment for the noxious weed, Giant Salvinia. No positive sites were found.
- Conducted 1,740 visual surveys statewide in nurseries for the noxious weed, Benghal Dayflower. No new positive sites were found.
- Conducted 1,740 visual surveys statewide in nurseries and nursery dealers for the noxious weed, Congongrass.
- Placed 6 traps in 6 counties at lumber mills for the Sirex Woodwasp. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 102 traps in 32 counties on ash trees for the Emerald Ash Borer. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 71 traps in 3 counties at high risk sites for Japanese Pine Sawyer Beetle, Redhaired Pine Bark Beetle, Pine Shoot Beetle, and 2 Ambrosia Beetles. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 75 traps in 11 counties at high risk sites for Africanized Honey Bee. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 41 traps in 31 counties at lumber mills for Pine Shoot Beetle. All traps were found to be negative.

BPI, continued on next page

Bureau of Plant Industry , continued from page 12



Bureau hosts Advanced Drift Training course for EPA's Region 4.

- Placed 20 traps in 14 counties at grain storage and distribution centers for Khapra Beetle. All traps were found to be negative.

Pesticide Program

- Registered 12,823 pesticide products.
- Collected 354 samples from products available at retail and distribution outlets to check compliance with state and federal pesticide laws.
- Issued 8 stop-sale orders on pesticide products found to be deficient, misbranded, or not registered.
- Issued 34 special-use registrations (Section 24c of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Issued 2 emergency exemptions (Section 18 of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Licensed 283 dealers to sell restricted-use pesticide products.
- Issued 699 licenses, 38 permits, and 740 registered technician identification cards to persons engaged in professional services. Ex: Pest control and weed control.
- Issued 1,836 private applicator certificates.
- Issued 465 commercial applicator certificates.
- Made 150 inspections of records kept by private applicators of restricted-use pesticide.
- Conducted 48 producer-establishment inspections, 229 marketplace inspections, 474 inspections of applicator records, 133 inspections of dealer records, and 24 container containment inspections.
- Conducted 35 inspections of pesticide misuse and 74 inspections in agricultural situations.
- Conducted 71 inspections of agricultural use and 1099 inspections in nonagricultural situations.

- Collected 129 samples under the Pesticide Enforcement Program.
- Conducted 32 worker protection inspections.
- Licensed 244 agricultural aviation pilots, 97 applicators, and registered 192 aircraft for agricultural purposes.
- Collected 84,000 pounds of waste pesticide.
- Issued 187 pest management consultants licenses.

Seed Program and State Seed Testing Laboratory

- Conducted 332 seed inspections.
- Collected 2,682 official regulatory seed samples.
- Found 142 official regulatory seed samples to be in violation of the State Seed Law.
- Issued 1,002 permits for the sale of seed to be planted.
- Tested 15,391 seed samples.
- Conducted 6,239 special tests on seed such as cool germ test, accelerated aging on soybeans, and red rice test.
- Performed a total of 31,016 tests on seed.

Feed, Fertilizer, Lime, and Soil-Plant Amendments Program

- Registered 715 feed manufacturers.
- Collected 2,343 feed samples.
- Registered 3,966 fertilizer products from 379 fertilizer companies.

- Registered 128 lime products from 53 distributors.
- Collected 770 fertilizer samples.
- Collected 80 lime samples.

Public Information Program

- Issued the following 3 press releases: Commissioner Hyde-Smith Takes Step to Help Protect Mississippi's Bee Industry, Commissioner Hyde-Smith Aims to Protect Homes from Invasive Ant Species, and Commissioner Hyde-Smith Secures Needed Insecticide for Grain Sorghum Producers.
- Conducted pesticide and chemical training sessions at the 2013 Safety Town in Oktibbeha County.
- Provided exhibit and educational materials at the 2013 Fall Flower and Garden Fest in Crystal Springs, 2014 Northeast Mississippi Farmer Expo in Verona, 2014 Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Convention in Biloxi, and the 2014 Everything Garden Expo in Starkville.
- Created a new flyer to post at pesticide dealers informing individuals about the misuse of pesticides and the penalties involved.

John Campbell, Bureau Director

E-mail: JohnCa@mdac.ms.gov



**BPI permitted 46,098 bee colonies
into Mississippi in FY 2014**



Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, employing approximately 29% of the state's workforce either directly or indirectly. In Mississippi, agriculture is a \$7.9 billion industry. There are approximately 37,300 farms in the state covering 11 million acres, which makes agriculture a significant contributor to all 82 counties. The Market Development Division is dedicated to promoting and heightening the public's awareness of Mississippi's agriculture commodities and the farmers and ranchers who produce them.

Market Development Highlights

- Presented agriculture's message to schools and civic organizations across the state.
- Participated in conferences and festivals throughout Mississippi.
- Distributed thousands of recipes using products grown in Mississippi.
- Marketed the *Mississippi Farmers Market Cookbook* with recipes submitted from Mississippians statewide.
- Counseled companies, producers, and organizations.
- Worked with the Mississippi Farmers Market to promote agriculture and healthy eating through cooking demonstrations and other events.
- Administered the Mississippi Certified Farmers Market Program, which is an ongoing marketing initiative for farmers markets across the state. There are currently 35 certified markets across the state.
- Assisted certified farmers markets with advertising costs through this marketing initiative.
- Assisted in marketing of the Mississippi Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- The 2014 USDA-Specialty Crop Block Grant

Program awarded Mississippi \$481,130.08 to distribute to organizations that will enhance our state's specialty crop industry. Seventeen projects were awarded to universities and producer organizations to administer research and programs in areas specifically related to consumer and grower education and workshops, food safety, high tunnels, and production for horticulture, sweet potatoes, strawberries, blueberries, and muscadines and grapes.

- Worked with Alcorn State University on Federal State Marketing Improvement Program grant. This grant educates and enables Mississippi small-scale farmers to supply selected produce to the Walmart *Buy Local* Program.
- Continued to support the Catfish Country of Origin Law in restaurants, which went into effect July 1, 2008.
- Conducted six educational workshops for growers and agriculture industry across the state.
- Member of the Southern United States Trade Association, encompassing 15 southern states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Its mission is to increase exports for United States agriculture and high-value foods.
- Department conducted tours and gave presentations to international visitors.
- Counseled individuals and associations on export opportunities.
- Administered the Mississippi Agritourism limited liability registration program. There are 59 registered agri-business operations in the state.
- Provided information to statewide media on all important agricultural events.
- Distributed an agricultural commodity directory statewide and through the web at www.mdac.ms.gov.
- Published a directory of the 85 Mississippi farmers markets on the MDAC website.
- Maintained the website www.farmtoschool-week.org to provide educational and promotional materials and resources for schools serving Mississippi grown items.
- Provided 161 Certificates of Free Sale to companies exporting Mississippi agricultural products.
- Conducted an educational event in conjunction with Mississippi Farm to School Week. Nearly 150 first graders were visited by farmers that grew their lunch items.

Public Information

Since 1928, the farming community throughout Mississippi has had access to one of the most important farming tools, the *Mississippi Market Bulletin*. The *Mississippi Market Bulletin* is a buy/sell newspaper for farmers to advertise their agricultural items that have been raised, grown, produced, or operated on their farms. It is the best

source for information regarding machinery/equipment, livestock, plants/seeds, agricultural real-estate, or anything related to Mississippi agriculture. It provides a wealth of information delivered to farmers' doors 24 times a year. The *Mississippi Market Bulletin* is a semi-monthly publication, published on the 1st and 15th of each month. Its circulation of 44,500 includes in-state and out-of-state subscribers.

MDAC published the second of *Mississippi Agriculture*, a comprehensive guide to the state's farms, food, and commerce. The annual publication utilizes a combination of original photography, reader-friendly graphics, and farmer profiles to tell the story of Mississippi agriculture from the perspective of those that live it each day. *Mississippi Agriculture* serves as an educational tool to increase awareness of the important role that agriculture plays in the local, state, and global economies. The magazine also promotes the state's largest industry to a growing number of consumers concerned about their families' food source.

The digital version of *Mississippi Agriculture* was available online at www.msagriculture.com. In addition to featuring the magazine, the website contains hundreds of farm-to-fork recipes, gardening ideas, farmers market guides, nutrition information, and agriculture stats and facts. The magazine was made available to the public at no charge, and 15,000 copies were distributed. It was supported through advertisements and at no cost to the Agency.

Trade Shows, Conferences, and Fairs

- North American Agricultural Marketing Officials Conference
- Mississippi State Fair
- Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo and Parade
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Conference
- Mississippi Agritourism Association Conference
- Southern Fruit and Vegetable Summit

Make Mine Mississippi Program

This unique marketing program was created to highlight products at least 51% produced, manufactured, or enhanced in Mississippi. Using a logo to identify these Mississippi value-added products, the program has heightened

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consumer awareness about the quality and availability of Mississippi products. At the end of FY 2014, 502 companies across the state in 30 categories belonged to the program.

Livestock Market News Service

The Livestock and Grain Market News program is a Federal/State cooperative agreement in conjunction with U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A livestock and grain reporter supervises the dissemination of livestock report collecting and disseminating grain price information and radio and television broadcasts.

This office provides price information on livestock and grain to lending institutions, university agricultural economists, consultants, and livestock associations.

Fourteen livestock auction markets are reported by eight cross-trained Mississippi Board of Animal Health personnel. Prices collected from the twelve sales represent 85% of all the livestock markets throughout the state.

Fruits and Vegetables

A revolving fund is utilized to give our growers fast pay when they sell their products. After

MDAC receives the Bill of Lading confirming the buyer's acceptance of the shipment, a Mississippi grower is paid from this fund within five days. The buyer then pays MDAC instead of paying the grower. Each grower and buyer must sign an acknowledgement with MDAC stating their understanding of the terms and regulations of MDAC's Revolving Fund.

Since 2002, MDAC has been participating in the Farm to School Program in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Education. This program is administered by the Department of Defense (DoD), which for years bought produce from local growers for military bases. The DoD expanded the Farm to School Program to include the school systems.

MDAC works very closely with the Mississippi Public School Nutritional Purchasing Agent, who receives all orders from the state's schools for produce needed for school cafeterias. MDAC then finds growers to supply the school system with the required fruits and vegetables. In FY 2014, more than \$227,920 of Mississippi produce was sold to local schools. Our growers now have an additional market, and school children are being introduced to locally-grown fruits and vegetables.

In order to increase the number of farmers participating in the Farm to School Program, MDAC established a cost-share program to provide financial assistance to those farmers receiving Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) certifications. Farmers that

participate in the DoD Farm to School Program are required to obtain GAP/GHP certification. Through grant funds, MDAC established the program to reimburse farmers for 75% of the cost (up to \$500) incurred to obtain the GAP/GHP certification.

Agritourism

Agritourism is a fast-growing part of the future of Mississippi's agriculture. With the public's desire for a "farm experience" and for the fun of fairs and festivals, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce is committed to promoting agritourism in our state. The Department has worked collaboratively with the Mississippi Agritourism Association, the Mississippi State University Extension Service, the Mississippi Development Authority, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation to assist and promote the agritourism industry. Joint efforts have resulted in a new Agritourism Registration Program that provides limited liability to persons engaged in agritourism activities, and a new Signage Program which allows qualified agritourism businesses to have directional signage on the right-of-way of state maintained highways. Fifty-nine operations are registered through the Agritourism Registration Program.

Paige Manning, Director

E-mail: Paige@mdac.ms.gov

Mississippi Farmers Market



MISSISSIPPI FARMERS MARKET

The Mississippi Farmers Market was created by an Act of Legislature, House Bill 54 Laws of 1946. The Market was created to provide facilities for the efficient handling of farm products in the interest of the farmer, consumer, general public, and the State of Mississippi.

In February 2006, the Farmers Market moved to the new 18,000 square foot market facility located at the corner of Jefferson and High Street.

The Market rents space to seasonal fruit and vegetable farmers, specialty food vendors, and

artisans from across the state. It also provides a place where consumers can buy products directly from the growers or producers. The Market also rents the facility for private parties and events. The Farmers Table restaurant rents space from the Market and serves breakfast and lunch six days per week.

On average, the Market serves more than 100 businesses across the state. The Mississippi Farmers Market has an average of nearly 1,500 customers each week shopping during the peak months of the summer vegetable season. With the assistance of the Information Technology Department, the Mississippi Farmers Market launched a mobile app in 2014.

The Mississippi Farmers Market operates from a "Special Fund Account." Income is derived from:

- Booth/Stall rentals
- Restaurant facility rental
- General facility rental



**Farmers Market located off High Street
in downtown Jackson.**

Frank Malta, Director

E-mail: FrankM@mdac.ms.gov

www.msfarmersmarket.com

Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum



The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum hosted a record 169,360 visitors in fiscal year 2014.

The mission of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum is to create an environment that communicates the value of past and present Mississippi agricultural lifestyles, relationships, and practices and their relevance to the future of all people.

Annual Event Highlights

- The First Annual Jackson Rhythm & Blues Festival was held at the Ag Museum. Drawing around 3,000 in its premier year, this event promises to become a Mississippi tradition celebrating blues music and Mississippi artists.
- For more than 20 years, the Ag Museum has been home to the Celtic Fest. 2,962 enjoyed the event in September 2013.
- More than 5,500 children and adults attended the October Pumpkin Adventure which included a hay ride tour of gardens and Small Town, Mississippi, a snack, a walk around the museum, and a pumpkin to take home.
- Harvest Festival was visited by more than 6,650 people. This educational event consisted of demonstrations at the cane mill, print shop, blacksmith shop, and grist mill. The Bisland Cotton Gin, the oldest cotton gin still in operation, ginned 6 bales for visitors. The event also featured hit-and-miss engines, bluegrass music, antique tractors, and live interpreters demonstrating butter churning at the Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead.
- More than 1,000 visitors attended the Museum's Country Christmas, which included Small Town MS in lights, a breakfast sampler, a Christmas Play and the Gingerbread Gift Market.
- The Mississippi Egg Marketing Board's Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Ag Museum, attracted 1,759 visitors who enjoyed complimentary sausage and biscuit, egg dyeing, games, mule

pulled wagon rides, and the egg hunt. Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith won the first annual Celebrity Egg Toss partnered with Cheryl Lasse-ter of Fox 40 News.

- AgVentures!, held in partnership with Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi Farm Bureau, Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, Mississippi Cattlewomen's Association, Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Mississippi Soil and Water Commission, and Natural Resources Conservation Service, was presented for 600 4th grade students and teachers who learned the important role agriculture plays. Interactive activities and displays included a visit to the barnyard, a tour of the nature trail, milking Cloverbelle the Cow at the 4-H Museum, and presentations about soybeans, composting, and the cotton gin.
- Spring Farm Days held in May offered the opportunity for over 900 visitors to see mule powered plowing demonstrations, blacksmith demonstrations, and tour the Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead.

New Projects

- In February 2014, the The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum announced the launching of a new branding strategy which includes a new logo and updated website as well as promotional materials and design templates for wayfinding signage. The branding strategy provides a seamless look across all mediums such as the website and promotional materials. Events and venue marketing will begin to be connected in the consumer's mind and will add strength to the Museum's primary brand. The logo system has been incorporated into planning for reinterpreting and redesign of exhibit spaces and event programming.
- The Ag Museum Foundation was awarded a \$140,000 Mississippi Community Heritage Preservation Grant administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives & History for restoration work on the Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead. The collection of buildings is significant because



it is a fully intact Mississippi farm representative of the typical farmer from 1860 to 1960. The result of this project, scheduled for completion December 2016, will return the Farmstead to an accessible state to the public, increase the educational value of the exhibit, and restore a site that has great potential for heritage tourism.

- The Ag Museum joined the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Mississippi Children's Museum, and the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science to form the LeFleur Museum District, bringing together four uniquely different museums. Visitors can purchase one ticket and visit all 4 museums at a 25% discounted rate.

The Museum continues to work on the following grant projects:

- A Recreational Trails Program Grant was awarded to the Ag Museum by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks in December 2011. The scope of work completed in 2014 includes construction of 2,070 feet of new trails to connect the existing Museum walkways to the nature trail, one new viewing pavilion, five new mini picnic pavilions along the new trail, educational stations, fencing for livestock pastures, and renovations to the barn. The purpose of this \$125,000 project is to improve visitors' perception and knowledge about the importance of natural resources to the agriculture industry.

The Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau awarded a grant of \$11,000 as a reimbursement for 2013-14 advertisement expenses.

Lise Foy, Director

E-mail: Lise@mdac.ms.gov

www.msagmuseum.org

Information Management

The Information Management Division (IMD) is primarily responsible for providing information technology and services to all employees of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). Also, IMD provides technical and network support, applications development and systems support, and strategic planning services for both the Mississippi Board of Animal Health and the Mississippi State Fair Commission.

IMD plays a critical role in three areas: aligning information technology with the agency's business goals, providing the infrastructure resources to support the agency's communication and decision making, and exploring emerging technologies to promote agriculture and commerce in the state.

New Projects

The Information Management Division successfully accomplished the following major projects during the last fiscal year:

- Upgraded major computer network infrastructure equipment including the Storage Area Network, the wireless network system, and added three new virtual file servers. The infrastructure allowed MDAC to expand disk storage capacity from 7 to 11 Terabytes, virtualize processing of new information systems, and increase the wireless broadband speed up to 1.3 Gigabits per second.
- Upgraded the regulation inspection and compliance system (Winwam software) for the Petroleum Products Division of Bureau of Regulatory Services. Replaced 15 field laptop computers with touch screen technology tablet computers. Today, the inspectors are fully trained and equipped with state-of-the-art technology to conduct regulatory inspections, generate inspection reports onsite, and efficiently sync inspection data with the agency database system. The upgraded software system provides inspectors with easier and faster searches of business information in the field and reflects new and changed federal guidelines that each state follows in performing its duties for Weights and Measures practices. Also, the new system provides agency managers with up-to-date information for querying, reporting, and decision making.
- Rolled out a new E-commerce web-based portal offering approximately 2,700 retail businesses the ability to apply for and receive the Retail Food Sanitation License online. In compliance with the Mississippi Retail Food Sanitation Law and Regulations, the business owners will be able to apply 24/7 via the Internet as a first time business or renew the license electronically each year. By doing business online, the businesses can save time and money by not having to submit paper forms and write manual checks every year. Due to the new automation, the agency is

now more efficient by reducing paperwork and streamlining labor intensive tasks.

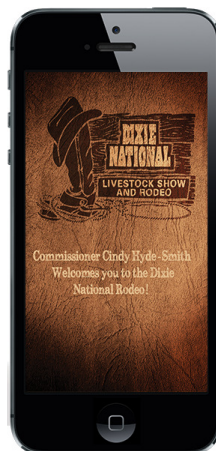
Mobile Apps

Launched three new mobile apps for the Mississippi Farmers Market, Dixie National Rodeo, and the Agritourism industry. These new apps were developed by BFAC.com, a Mississippi based company.



The new Farmers Market mobile app allows the users to:

- Locate Farmers Markets in Mississippi with turn-by-turn directions using an interactive map.
- Receive "push notifications" about important market news, promotions, and special events.
- Find restaurants using local produce.
- Learn about our market vendors and upcoming events.
- Read the current issue of MS Market Bulletin and sign-up for What's Fresh newsletter.
- View the planting guide for seasonal fruits and vegetables grown in our state.
- Send comments, feedback, and suggestions through the app on how we can improve the Farmers Market.



The new Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo mobile app provides the users with the ability to:

- Purchase tickets online.
- Receive "push notifications" about important news from the event.
- Listen and purchase music from entertainers at the rodeo.
- Make Emergency calls.
- Find special access parking information.
- Use the car/truck finder feature to locate their car.
- Get rodeo results and parade information.
- Check out rodeo sponsors and find discount coupons.
- Use social media and share the app via Facebook, twitter, email, and text.



The new Agritourism mobile app was developed by BFAC.com in collaboration with the agency's Marketing Bureau. The app provides the users with the ability to:

- Find local Agritourism sites to locate nearby markets.
- List restaurants and bakeries with local produce.
- Browse venue information along with farm operation and activities.
- See annual and seasonal events.
- View a seasonal produce guide.
- Read Agritourism registration guidelines.
- IMD successfully implemented innovative and social media based technologies at the Mississippi Fair Commission to increase promotion and recognition of major events at the State Fairgrounds. The debut of the State Fair mobile app in its inaugural year resulted in over 10,000 users downloading the app in a three week period.

IMD, continued on next page

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The app featured concert and event information, a map of all the attractions, mobile Fair Fun Guide, livestock schedule, Premium Book, weather alerts, and a parked car finder. With this increased promotion, social media and good weather, the 2013 Mississippi State Fair experienced record high attendance of 706,884 attendees, nearly 24% of the State's population.

New to the 2014 State Fair App was users' ability to receive real-time push notifications. With assistance from Mississippi State University's Extension Service, the app sent livestock updates, results, and show times via text messages. App users have the ability to choose which categories of push notifications to receive including sheep, goats, swine, and cattle. As a result of 416 users opting in to the push notification system,

59,020 text messages were received. The push notifications provided a very convenient way to let the show participants and their parents know when their event is coming up so they can get ready along with the capability of posting pictures of the winners and recognizing their accomplishments. An added benefit of the App allowed extended family members and friends to follow the children/grandchildren's progress in the Livestock shows. Also many users copied and pasted results from the feature to Facebook, further increasing promotion and recognition of the State Fair livestock shows.

Other innovations included the introduction of the Wrangler Network to the Dixie National Rodeo and Livestock Show. Wrangler sponsored an online channel, providing live coverage of

the rodeo over the Internet. During the Rodeo broadcast, there were actually more viewers online than in physical attendance, 6,503 in-house and 6,797 online, thus doubling exposure and giving people anywhere in the world an opportunity to experience a nearly 50-year-old tradition in Mississippi.

These up-to-the-minute improvements made possible through technology will continue to drive the continued success of offerings and services provided by the Fair Commission and the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

Umesh Sanjanwala, Director

E-mail: Umesh@mdac.ms.gov

Agriculture and Livestock Theft

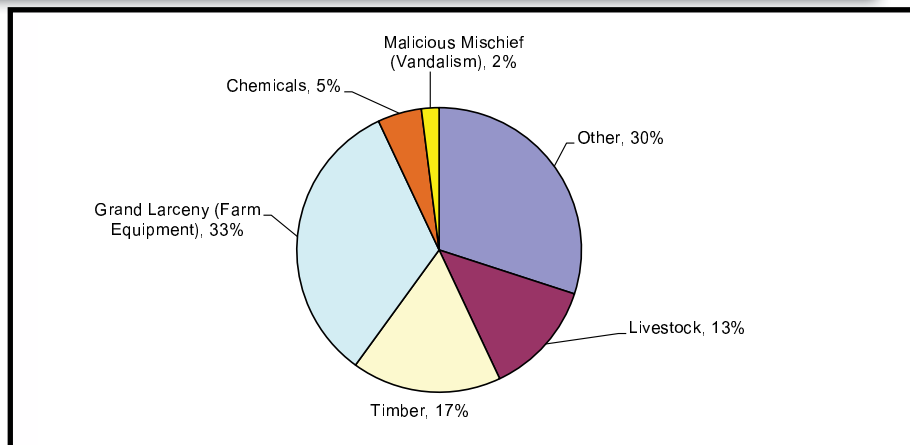


The Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau was created in 1993 to assist in the investigation of all farm and agriculture-related crimes. Investigators, one for each Mississippi Highway Patrol District, are charged with enforcing all state laws pertaining to the theft of cattle, horses, swine, poultry, fish, farm equipment, chemicals, timber, and all other farm or agriculture-related crimes. The Bureau is also responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all persons who violate any of the laws administered by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

In addition to its law enforcement function, the Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau maintains registration of all livestock brands. Livestock in Mississippi do not have to be branded; however, if they are branded, the brand must be registered. The brands are recorded for a five-year period at a cost of five dollars. Registered brands are published in book form and distributed to law enforcement throughout the state. The most current book was printed in December 2012 and has over a 1,000 brands registered.

Jeff Stewart, Director

E-mail: Jeff@mdac.ms.gov



Percentage distribution of dollar value of reported crimes.

Total dollar value of \$2,293,538 for FY 2014.



The John Deere tractor and hay baler were both reported stolen in Holmes County in September 2014. On October 2, 2014, Investigators from the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau recovered these items along with other equipment in Leake County. Four arrests were made in conjunction with this investigation.